

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4 are pending in the current application.

Priority

2. This application claims priority from PCT application number PCT/FI2005/000023, filed on 1/17/2005, which claims priority from Finnish Patent application number 20040093, filed on 1/22/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Azima et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,192,136, published on 2/20/2001 (hereby Azima).**

5. As to claim 1, Azima teaches a loudspeaker, particularly a so-called planar loudspeaker (Fig. 5C, 9), the vibrating diaphragm of which is essentially planar (147) and is attached by its edges to the body (14) of the loudspeaker, characterized in that there is a resilient intermediate piece (17) between the diaphragm (147) and the body (14). Azima discloses that the suspension (17), which corresponds to an intermediate piece, is resilient (Col. 7, lines 6-10).

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6. As to claim 2, Azima teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is located essentially around the entire edge area of the diaphragm (147).

7. As to claim 3, Azima teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is formed from a resilient material. Azima discloses that the suspension (17), which corresponds to an intermediate piece, is resilient (Col. 7, lines 6-10).

8. As to claim 4, Azima teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is a strip of a resilient rubber or plastic-based material, or it is formed from a woven type of natural or synthetic material. Azima discloses that the suspension (17), corresponding to an intermediate piece, is either foam rubber (Col. 6, lines 60-61) or rubber (Col. 6, lines 1-3).

9. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klasco et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0081800, published on 5/1/2003 (hereby Klasco).

10. As to claim 1, Klasco teaches a loudspeaker, particularly a so-called planar loudspeaker (Fig. 2, 11), the vibrating diaphragm of which is essentially planar (13) and is attached by its edges to the body (12) of the loudspeaker, characterized in that there is a resilient intermediate piece (17) between the diaphragm (13) and the body (12). Klasco discloses that the surround (17), which corresponds to an intermediate piece, is compliant (Para. 0032, lines 2-4), corresponding to resilient.

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11. As to claim 2, Klasco teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is located essentially around the entire edge area of the diaphragm (13) (Para. 0032, lines 1-2).

12. As to claim 3, Klasco teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is formed from a resilient material. Klasco discloses that the surround (17), which corresponds to an intermediate piece, is compliant (Para. 0032, lines 2-4), corresponding to resilient.

13. As to claim 4, Klasco teaches that the intermediate piece (17) is a strip of a resilient rubber or plastic-based material, or it is formed from a woven type of natural or synthetic material. Klasco discloses that the surround (17), corresponding to an intermediate piece, is either butyl rubber or a blend of polypropylene and vulcanized rubber particles (Para 0032, lines 2-6).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record

- a. US Patent Number **6,192,136**
- b. US Publication Number **2003/0081800**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan C. Robinson whose telephone number is (571) 270-3956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Suhan Ni, can be reached on (571) 272-7505. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan Robinson

/Suhan Ni/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2615